

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) A portable pill crushing device, comprising:
2 a housing;
3 a motor disposed in said housing;
4 at least one roller rotatably mounted within the housing and drivingly connected to said
5 motor, said roller having an outer surface for engaging and crushing pills; and
6 a pressure plate attached to the housing, said pressure plate having a first position in
7 which a first surface of the pressure plate is disposed adjacent to the outer surface
8 of the roller, whereby pills can be crushed between the pressure plate and the
9 roller as the roller is rotatably driven by the motor; and
10 wherein said at least one roller comprises a series of rollers, and the first surface of the
11 pressure plate is disposed adjacent to the respective outer surfaces of the rollers
12 for crushing pills as the pills pass between the first surface of the pressure plate
13 and the outer surfaces of the rollers.

1 2. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said
2 pressure plate is rotatably connected to the housing such that the pressure plate can be rotated
3 away from the roller for inspection and cleaning.

1 3. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said
2 pressure plate is rotatable about a first axis away from said first position and into close

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

3 proximity to an outer surface of the housing for engaging and crushing pills between the
4 pressure plate and the outer surface of the housing in a manual pre-crushing operation.

1 4. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said
2 pressure plate is rotatable about a first axis away from said first position such that the first
3 surface of the pressure plate moves away from the outer surface of the roller and a second
4 surface of the pressure plate moves into close proximity to a top side of the housing, whereby
5 said pressure plate cooperates with said housing to provide a manual pre-crushing operation.

1 5. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 4, wherein an upper
2 surface of the housing comprises a sloped surface that directs pills to be crushed into a space
3 between the pressure plate and the roller.

1 6. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 5, wherein said second
2 surface of the pressure plate is movable into close proximity to said sloped surface to provide
3 the manual pre-crushing operation.

1 7. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said
2 housing has a base for stabilizing the crushing device during use.

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

1 8. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 7, wherein said base
2 has a vacuum lock system operable to anchor the crushing device to a smooth surface using a
3 vacuum created between the base and the smooth surface.

1 9. (canceled)

1 10. (currently amended) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein
2 said at least one rollers includes a first roller closest to an inlet of the crushing device and a
3 last roller closest to an outlet of the crushing device, and a spacing between said pressure plate
4 and the respective outer surfaces of the rollers decreases from the first roller to the last roller
5 to provide a gradual progression of crushing from coarse material to fine material.

1 11. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said
2 motor is connected to said at least one roller by a gear train.

1 12. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said
2 housing comprises a receptacle formed therein for receiving a rechargeable battery for
3 supplying power to the motor.

1 13. (currently amended) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein
2 said housing comprises a front side, a bottom side, a top side, and right and left sides, ~~the~~ said
3 series of rollers are pivotally mounted at their respective ends to the right and left sides of the

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

4 housing, the pressure plate is arranged to substantially cover the front side, an inlet of a
5 crushing chamber is provided between the top side and an upper end of the pressure plate, and
6 an outlet of the crushing chamber is provided between the bottom side and a lower end of the
7 pressure plate.

1 14. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one roller comprises a plurality of rollers which are made of stainless steel and have
3 smooth outer surfaces.

1 15. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a plastic enclosure for encasing a pill during crushing to prevent contamination.

1 16. (original) A portable pill crushing device, comprising:
2 a housing having a base for supporting the pill crushing device in an upright position;
3 a motor disposed in said housing;
4 a battery removably attached to said housing for supplying electrical power to said
5 motor; and
6 a series of rollers rotatably mounted within the housing and drivingly connected to said
7 motor, said rollers each having a smooth outer surface for engaging and crushing
8 pills.

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

1 17. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 16, further
2 comprising a pressure plate attached to the housing, said pressure plate being movable
3 between a closed position in which a first surface of the pressure plate is disposed adjacent to
4 the outer surfaces of the rollers, and an open position in which the pressure plate is displaced
5 away from the outer surfaces of the rollers to facilitate inspecting and cleaning the rollers.

1 18. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 16, wherein said
2 pressure plate is rotatable about a first axis from said closed position to said open position and
3 is further rotatable about said first axis to move a second surface of the pressure plate into
4 close proximity to an outer surface of the housing for engaging and crushing pills between the
5 pressure plate and the housing in a manual pre-crushing operation.

1 19. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 16, wherein said
2 housing has a base equipped with a vacuum lock system which is operable to anchor the
3 crushing device to a smooth surface using a vacuum created between the base and the smooth
4 surface.

1 20. (original) The portable pill crushing device according to claim 16, further
2 comprising a plastic enclosure for encasing a pill to be crushed to prevent direct contact of the
3 pill with the rollers and the pressure plate to avoid contamination.

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

1 21. (withdrawn) A method of crushing pills, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a portable pill crushing device having a housing, a motor disposed in said
3 housing, a series of rollers rotatably mounted within the housing and drivingly
4 connected to the motor, and a pressure plate attached to the housing;
5 placing a pill to be crushed into an inlet of the housing; and
6 crushing the pill by energizing the motor to rotate the series of rollers and causing the
7 pill to pass between the pressure plate and respective outer surfaces of the rollers.

1 22. (withdrawn) The method of crushing pills according to claim 21, further comprising
2 the step of encasing the pill in plastic, and performing said crushing step while the pill is
3 encased in plastic to avoid contamination.

1 23. (withdrawn) The method of crushing pills according to claim 21, further comprising
2 the steps of:
3 pre-crushing the pill by manually pivoting the pressure plate relative to the housing to
4 engage the pill between the pressure plate and a surface of the housing adjacent to
5 the inlet; and
6 repositioning the pressure plate into close proximity to the respective outer surfaces of
7 the series of rollers to prepare the crushing device for said crushing step.

Docket 60682
Serial No. 10/735,386

PATENT APPLICATION

24. (withdrawn) The method of crushing pills according to claim 23, further comprising the step of encasing the pill in plastic, and performing said pre-crushing and crushing steps while the pill remains encased in plastic to avoid contamination.